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BESS Newsletter

Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science
Publications and Other Works

12-3-2010

BESS 12/3/10

Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Sciences

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TOP STORIES:

Welcome to the latest BESS News.

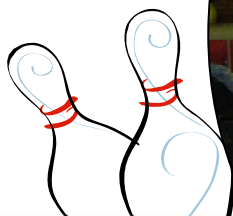
Be sure to check out the current Funding Opportunities by using the links to the right!

[BESS Funding Opportunities](#)

[BESS Obituary](#)

BESS Students Take A Break From Their Studying To Go Down Under And Bowl With the Professors.

Front row: Alysse Ness, Dr. Buschermohle, Brett Denton, Katie Peay, Lori Gibson, and Will Nichols
Second Row: Dr. Drumm, Sean Nester, Alex McLemore, Joe Selby, and Warren Edmund
Back Row: Erick Foster, Blake Vaughn and Brandon Jarnagin



DR. MIKE BUSCHERMOHLE
INSTRUCTING ON THE FINER
POINTS OF SCORING



Dr. Worley displays his score in the first game

Holiday Party

This event is for everyone including faculty,
staff, students, retirees, and alumni.

Thursday, December 16th
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.
Plant Biotech rooms 156-157

BESS research contracts for October 2010

Paul Ayers, National Park Service, \$25,000.00

Daniel Yoder, USDA ARS, \$3,905.00

Hubert Savoy, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$40,833.00

Forbes Walker, Shawn Hawkins, and John Buchanan, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, \$10,000.00

U.S. Faculty Scholars Call for Applications- from Lynne Mc Namara

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for its 2011-2012 U.S. Faculty Scholar Grants Program. VEF is an independent U.S. Federal Government agency whose mission is to strengthen the U.S.-Vietnam relationship through educational exchanges. The VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar Program aims to contribute to building capacity in science and technology in Vietnam, to help Vietnamese institutions address specific educational challenges, and to build positive relationships between U.S. and Vietnamese institutions of higher education institutions and their faculty.

Selected U.S. Faculty Scholars will receive a grant to teach at a Vietnamese university for one or two full academic terms during the 2011-2012 academic year. Teaching may be performed in person on-site in Vietnam or by real-time interactive videoconferencing with shorter trips to Vietnam at the beginning and end of each semester. Supported fields of teaching include the sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), engineering, mathematics, medicine (including public health), and technology (including information technology). Courses may be offered at both the undergraduate and/or graduate level.

We ask for your assistance in providing this information to qualified individuals, who might be interested in submitting a proposal to become a 2011-2012 U.S. Faculty Scholar. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, holding an academic position of Associate Professor, Professor, or Emeritus. The official call for proposals and additional information about the program can be found at the VEF website: www.vef.gov

The proposal submission period opens on December 10, 2010, and closes on February 7, 2011. Finalists will be selected for an interview in early March and successful grantees will be notified in April.

Questions about the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grants Program should be directed to VEF at 703-351-5053 or usfs@vef.gov. We thank you for your assistance.

Cornerstone Report from Washington

Vol. 8, No. 6 – Nov. 24, 2010

Congressional Spending Dilemma

To Members of the APLU System:

- Boards on Agriculture Assembly, Human Sciences, and Natural Resources
- Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)
- Council on Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
- Council on Governmental Affairs

The November 2010 elections are over and the public has spoken: Americans want Congress to take control of the economy and rein in deficit spending. While this message is simple and unambiguous, implementing it is anything but straightforward.

As the 111th Congress winds down, there is budgetary chaos in Washington with neither Republicans nor Democrats quite sure how to pass appropriations bills (either now or in the future) and control the deficit. With House control switching to the Republicans on January 5, this situation is likely to remain extremely dynamic, with the uncertainty continuing for several months. This communication provides you with our best professional insight and judgment about the budget and appropriations issues currently facing Congress relating to completion of the FY 2011 appropriations bills and a crystal ball look at the FY 2012 appropriations process.

Finishing the FY 2011 Appropriations Bills

Congress has returned for a short “lame duck” session to (among other things) work on completing the FY 2011 appropriations bills. The present short-term “continuing resolution” (or “CR”) keeps the federal government operating only through December 3. Thus, the current Democratic majorities in the House and Senate have been working to complete the FY 2011 process, with three options under consideration:

Option 1: An “omnibus” bill combining all 12 appropriations bills into a single measure.

Option 2: Another “short-term” CR with an expiration date that falls (most likely) in February 2011.

Option 3: A “long-term” CR that would provide funding for departments and agencies through the entire fiscal year (that is until September 30, 2011).

Every CR has two essential elements: (1) instructions to the executive branch and independent agencies on the amount of money that may be spent on various programs; and (2) the date on which the CR expires. For the purposes of the analysis that follows, a “long-term” CR is deemed to have an expiration date of September 30, 2011, and a “short-term” CR an earlier expiration date. (While the expiration date is important, the more critical element is the spending “rate” set in the continuing resolution.)

A bipartisan group of appropriators have been developing an omnibus bill with a “rate” which is \$26 billion below the total requested by President Obama for FY 2011 but \$18 billion above the amount approved for FY 2010. If Option 1 prevails, it may or may not contain earmarks as they were marked up by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees earlier this year. The viability of the omnibus approach is mostly dependent on whether Senate Democrats can find enough Republicans to vote for it. Going into Thanksgiving week, negotiations with Senate Republicans were continuing on a one-on-one basis.

Cornerstone Report from Washington continued....

If Option 2 (short-term CR) were to become the vehicle for FY 2011, many more programs and projects become at risk. This scenario “punts” completion of appropriations at least partially into the hands of the new Republican House majority. Many Republicans seem to be coalescing behind an FY 2011 spending cap that is significantly below the FY 2010 limit, with considerable discussion about a rollback all the way to FY 2008. An estimated \$100 billion would be saved by returning to FY 2008 levels, and if the burden of these cuts falls only on non-defense discretionary spending (which accounts for about one-eighth of the total federal budget), those programs would be cut about 20 percent in the aggregate. Were this scenario to occur it would leave very little time for supporters of programs and projects to make their case to Members of Congress.

Option 3 (long-term CR) consists of the existing Democratic majority on both sides completing action before “turning over one set of keys” to the new House Republican majority. If Option 3 were to prevail, it would most likely be at rate similar to the \$26 billion below the President’s request, but it would not likely include earmarks as previously proposed by House and Senate. Therefore, instructions to agencies would be critical to the outcome of programs and projects.

The decision timeline for the FY 2011 process could occur before December 3, as both Houses have been heavily engaged on working out the options, but could just as easily be delayed by another short term CR that only goes for a few days. In any case, the ultimate conclusion should arrive before Christmas.

Looking Ahead to 2011 (FY 2012)

Based on recent news reports, one might conclude that congressional earmarks have come to an end, but as in many things, “the devil is in the details.” While Republicans on both sides of the Capitol support an earmark moratorium, many Democrats and most importantly most Senate Democrats (who will remain in the majority next year) currently do not support the moratorium concept. Adding to the confusion is the fact that there is no consistent definition of what constitutes an earmark, meaning that how the Senate defines an earmark may be quite different from the definition used by either the House or the Obama Administration.

Even those at the forefront of the earmark “reform” effort, such as Rep. Michele Bachman (R-MN), can’t agree on what constitutes an earmark:

“Advocating for transportation projects for ones district in my mind does not equate to an earmark... I don’t believe that building roads and bridges and interchanges should be considered an earmark... There’s a big difference between funding a tea pot museum and a bridge over a vital waterway.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune, Nov. 16, 2010.)

And, many House and Senate Democrats and a number of Republican senators echo the sentiment of Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) who said recently:

“I oppose the Senate Republican Conference’s voluntary moratorium on so-called ‘earmarks.’ At a moment in which over-spending by the federal government perpetuates annual deficits of over \$1 trillion a year, Congress is being asked to debate [an] earmark spending resolution which will save no money even while giving the impression that the Congress is attempting to meet the public demand to reduce spending... Congress should exercise, rather than abdicate, its Constitutional authority to cut spending and reduce the deficit.” (Lugar news release, Nov. 16, 2010.)

Cornerstone Report from Washington continued....

Here are some additional earmark thoughts to ponder:

As Senator Lugar notes — eliminating earmarks will not save any money. Spending is controlled by caps that Congress imposes on appropriations bills — known as “302 (a) and 302(b)” allocations. Under this system of caps, a dollar that is not spent on an earmark is simply spent elsewhere.

Many representatives and senators feel strongly that transportation, infrastructure, and other home state projects should be exceptions.

Some who have signed onto the earmark moratorium have also issued caveats stating that they will ignore the ban if they deem it necessary to meet their home state needs.

Regardless of the breadth and duration of any earmark moratorium, the federal government still needs to be funded, as do individual programs, projects, contracts, grants, etc. The outcome of any earmark reform effort will likely take many months to play out and may well depend on the resolution of approaches taken by the two chambers, definitions used to delineate an earmark, decisions on whether there will be exceptions, whether earmarks must be specifically authorized, etc.

The **bigger** problem will be attempts to use the appropriations process as the vehicle to solve all of the government’s budget woes. Members of the new House Republican majority have publicly discussed ways to impose greater fiscal control. Most options revolve around the appropriations bills. However, the appropriations bills only cover *discretionary spending*, not mandatory spending on programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Cuts to existing discretionary programs in the range of 20 percent and elimination of most projects may well devastate the viability of many ongoing programs. Regardless of the resolution of the earmark issue, someone somewhere in the government will decide which highways are improved, which ports are dredged, and which research projects are funded. States, municipalities, universities, nonprofits, businesses, and indeed anyone who depends on federal programmatic funding to achieve their goals will need to pursue and use all options available to them to enhance their legislative objectives.

Concluding Thoughts

Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution gives Congress the exclusive authority to appropriate money, a prerogative often referred to as “the power of the purse.” This authority means in very simple terms that Congress is responsible for writing the checks for the federal government, both for large government programs and smaller projects or earmarks. Regardless of whether a representative or senator supports or opposes them, “earmarks” are simply constitutionally-sanctioned, congressionally-directed spending decisions made at the “micro level.”

If Congress does not execute its constitutional authority in this area, the decision making process for allocating programmatic spending to specific beneficiaries falls solely to the executive branch (even though the President does not have the “power of the purse”). And therein lies the problem for FY 2012 and beyond. If Members of Congress cede control over this part of the appropriations process, then how do their constituents ensure that their specific federal funding needs are being met? How do their constituents ensure that some fair amount of their tax dollars get returned home?

Yes, the landscape in Washington, DC, was changed dramatically by the recent elections, but that’s not the first time we’ve seen significant change inside the Beltway. Working together, we can continue to meet the challenges ahead and take advantage of the opportunities that lie before us.

Outlook 2010 Quick Steps

Outlook 2010 Quick Steps can help you manage your email. Quick Steps are easy-to-use one-click buttons, which perform multiple actions at once. If you file your mail, they can be a life saver – one click and that conversation is filed away *and* marked as read. If you send e-mail to the same people over and over – one click and you have a new email to your team. As your work style in Outlook changes, you can configure Quick Steps to work the way you do. You can use a predefined Quick Step or create your own.

For information about Quick Steps and other features of Office 2010, contact the HelpDesk or read about them online at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook-help/what-s-new-in-microsoft-outlook-2010-HA010354412.aspx>.

Featured Software: **MATLAB Webinars**

The MathWorks, Inc., developers of MATLAB, Simulink, and several application-specific products called Toolboxes, provides live and recorded seminars called webinars. The webinars, offered over the Web, can help you learn about their products. For example, you can now register for the live seminar "Teaching Math and Physics with Symbolic Math Toolbox" offered Dec. 7 at either 9AM or 2PM. The one-hour live presentation and demonstrations will be followed by a Q&A session. If you cannot watch the live seminar, it will be offered as a recorded seminar that you can get immediate access to after completing an online form or simply logging in to your current MathWorks account. To view the titles and descriptions of approximately 100 different 2010 webinars, go to <http://www.mathworks.com> and under the "Events" tab, choose to view all "Upcoming" or "Recorded Webinars."

Although viewing the MATLAB webinars does not require MATLAB, most of the products are available free. All faculty, staff, and students at all UT Campuses may download MATLAB, Simulink, and any of the toolboxes to a UT-owned computer and/or a personally-owned computer. For more information on the University of Tennessee system-wide license and how to get the software, go to <http://oit.utk.edu/matlab/>. The Toolboxes that are included in the license and work within the MATLAB and Simulink environments are listed at <http://oit.utk.edu/matlab/MATLABtoolboxes.htm>.

Workshops for December 6-10

Instructor-focused:

Best Practices for Online@UT Assessment Tools, Mon, Dec. 6, 9:00am-11:00am

Blogs and Wikis in Online@UT, Wed, Dec. 8, 1:00pm-3:00pm

SharePoint:

SharePoint Training for Faculty and Staff, Tue, Dec. 7, 10:10am-12:10pm

All workshops meet on the Knoxville campus.

Registration is required for all workshops. To register for a workshop go to: <http://oit.utk.edu/training.php>. If you have questions or need help with registration for any of the workshops listed above, contact the HelpDesk at <http://help.utk.edu>, or 974-9900.

Student News

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Dear Student:

You are invited to participate in a one-day program for doctoral students co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the University Libraries. ***Starting the Dissertation: Beginning a Career*** will be held from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the John C. Hodges Library. A boxed lunch will be provided free of charge.

Completing a dissertation brings closure to one's doctoral study and often leads to a major publication that launches a new career. The university offers several resources to help you select a dissertation topic, conduct research, prepare a manuscript, and place your work into the scholarly communications network. Your dissertation represents an intellectual investment with the potential to distinguish you and the University of Tennessee. Over time, others will build on your scholarship.

The January 11 workshop provides context, requirements, and resources to prepare you for beginning the dissertation. The opening session will focus on the significance of the dissertation in the academy. Workshop speakers will cover strategies for completing the dissertation, provide advice on the writing and publishing process, and describe support services from the Libraries and the Graduate School. At the lunch break, invited members of the UT faculty will discuss career advancement and the dissertation. The afternoon session opens with a presentation on overcoming your dissertation anxieties and then moves to breakout groups organized into broad disciplinary areas. Research Services Librarians will offer more detail on information about tools for dissertation research during the group sessions.

To reserve your place at the workshop, please register no later than **Monday, December 20**. For the day's schedule and the registration form go to:

<http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/docworkshop/>

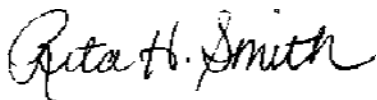
Spaces are limited. Take advantage of this opportunity to make an informed beginning to your dissertation project. Our goal is to provide both inspiration and information.

Sincerely,



Carolyn R. Hodges

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School



Rita H. Smith

Associate Dean, University Libraries

AETC Career Fair- letter from Timothy Ice

I would like to inform you about an opportunity your department has to recruit potential graduate students for your program and introduce your students to potential employers. This year the Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference (AETC) will be held in conjunction with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) Ag Connect Expo in Atlanta, Georgia. On Thursday, January 6th there will be a career fair session at the conference. We have invited all of the AEM participating companies to participate in the career fair. Many of these companies may not normally come to your campus to recruit.

I recognize that with the economic down turn that many students are not finding full time employment and internship positions as quickly as they did in previous years. I hope this career fair will give them an opportunity to talk with possible employers. I also would like your department to consider talking to potential graduate students for your program.

Would you please inform your students that they should plan on bringing their up to date resumes to the conference? The program and online registration is available on the ASABE website at <http://www.asabe.org/meetings/aetc2011/index.htm>

Jefferson Science Fellowship

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2011 Jefferson Science Fellowship call for applications- Letter from Ray Gamble

The National Academies is pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2011 Jefferson Science Fellowship (JSF) program. Now in its 8th year, the JSF program is a model for engaging the American academic science, technology, and engineering communities in the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy.

Jefferson Science Fellows spend one year at the U.S. Department of State or U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, DC and may periodically travel to U.S. foreign embassies and/or missions. JSF awards are open to tenured academic scientists, technologists and engineers from U.S. educational institutions. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and will be required to obtain a security clearance.

The online application and instructions can be found on the JSF website: www.national-academies.org/jsf

We expect at least ten Fellows to be selected for the 2011 program. The application deadline is January 14, 2011. Finalists will be interviewed in late February, and applicants will be notified of selection decisions by early March. The 2011 Jefferson Science Fellows will report to the Department of State or Agency for International Development on or about August 15, 2011.

I am writing to ask your assistance in identifying or nominating qualified individuals for this program. You should have recently received the 2011 Jefferson Science Fellowship brochure in the mail, which contains more detailed information about the competition and profiles of JSF alumni. Thank you in advance for suggesting potential candidates and disseminating this information.

Obituary

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Robert W. Himes

Robert W. Himes, 93, Maineville, OH., died peacefully at Hospice of Cincinnati, November 29, 2010. Born November 12, 1917 in Ladoga, Indiana to Perry and Mabel Himes. He is **survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Frances**, of Ohio. Devoted father to Roger (Patricia) Himes, OH., Carolyn (Drake) Dingeman, OH., Warren (Lynn) Himes, Shelbyville, IN., Richard (Julie) Himes, OH. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Robert served in the U. S. Army Air Corp during WWII. He **received a degree in Mechanical and Agricultural Engineering from The University of Tennessee in 1949**. He was immediately hired by Purdue University as an Indiana County Agricultural Extension Agent and served Johnson, Fountain and Brown counties at various times in his career. He retired in 1977 and enjoyed much traveling with his wife. Robert was active in community affairs, Lions Club & Nashville Christian Church. He was a very kind man and had a passion for working closely with 4-H clubs & community development. He believed that 4-H gave youth a good, strong foundation for life and taught leadership. A funeral service will be held Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 P.M. at Bond-Mitchell Funeral Home, Nashville. The family will receive visitors at the funeral home Thursday from 6:00 P.M- 7:30 P.M. Burial will be in Knoxville, TN. on Friday, December 3. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Ohio 4-H Foundation, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, OH., 43210. Please make checks payable to The Ohio State University and write "in memory of Robert Himes" in the memo line of the check. Online condolences may be sent to www.bondmitchellfuneralhome.com Arrangements under the direction of Bond-Mitchell Funeral Home, Nashville, IN.